Appl.No.: 09/899,744
Amendment dated February 27, 2004
Response to Office Action mailed November 28, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 8, replace the last paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

For example, the weightings of the combined decoded packets having errors may be based on nonlinear functions of the corresponding channel fading amplitude, such as the squares of the fading amplitudes; with original soft-decision decoding of the individual packets and Viterbi decoding of the combination may include the fading channel weightings as multipliers for the distance measurements in the branch metrics so that the branch metrics emphasize differences for decodings of the packet with larger channel amplitude; the sizes of the bit blocks, convolution constraints, CRC length, bit reorganization (e.g., scrambling, spreading, reference bit insertions) and block partitions prior to and/or after convolution coding, and so forth may be varied or performed; and receivers would invert these further steps. Instead of convolution codes g_1, g_2, ... g_n, other types of codes may be used in which additional parity bits are transmitted in each packet. Indeed, a block code of size (nm, m) where m is the packet size may be used. ~~In this case~~